

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 FEA-01 AEC-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-04 FPC-01

H-01 INR-05 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03

RSC-01 SAM-01 OES-02 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00

FRB-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 AGR-05 NEA-06 SWF-01 /113 W

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R 091530Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8928

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

USUN NEW YORK 0756

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SG, PINT, PFOR, ECON

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S PRESS CONFERENCE

BEGIN SUMMARY. ON NOVEMBER 8, PRESIDENT SENGHOR
HELD PRESS CONFERENCE ON THEME "SENEGAL IN AFRICA
AND IN WORLD." MAIN INTERNATIONAL THEME WAS CALL FOR CONCERTATION
RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION. ON DECOLONIZATION, HE ANNOUNCED A
UN CONFERENCE ON NAMIBIA TO BE HELD IN DAKAR. DISPLAYING CONCERN
FOR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS BOTH ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SCENE
HE ASKED DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO REFRAIN FROM PLACING BLAME
ENTIRELY ON ARABS AND OTHER RAW MATERIAL PRODUCERS BUT TO SEEK
WAYS TO LOWER PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS AND "ESTABLISH PARITY
BETWEEN RAW MATERIALS AND MANUFACTURES". HE REPEATED HIS
FAMILIAR THEME OF EURO-AFRICAN, EURO-ARAB, AND ARABO-AFRICAN
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DIALOGUE, LEAVING OPENING FOR EVENTUAL ISRAELI PARTICIPATION.

NEW SENEGALESE PDS POLITICAL PARTY WAS PUT ON GUARD THAT ITS ACTIVITIES WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO THREATEN INTERNAL SECURITY. END SUMMARY.

1. WITH SEVERAL DAYS ADVANCE NOTICE PRESIDENT SENGHOR ON NOV 8 GAVE FULL SCALE PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH WAS AUGMENTED BY PRESENCE OF JOURNALISTS HERE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR. PRIME MINISTER, PRESIDENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, AND SEVERAL OTHER MINISTERS FLANKED PRESIDENT DURING TWO-HOUR SESSION.

2. AMONG MOST INTERESTING POLITICAL INTERNATIONAL ISSUES WERE BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT THAT DAKAR WILL BE HOST FOR UN CONFERENCE ON NAMIBIA. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION ABOUT RECENT LE MONDE ARTICLE ALLEGING HE FAVORED INDEPENDENCE FOR DJIBOUTI, SENGHOR SAID HIS POSITION WAS THAT REFERENDUM WAS NOT FINAL, THAT HE FAVORED INDEPENDENCE OF ALL COLONIES (INCLUDING TERRITORY OF AFARS AND ISSAS) AND HE UNDERSTANDS GOF WILL GRANT INDEPENDENCE IF INHABITANTS DEMAND IT IN NEW REFERENDUM.

3. IN REPLY TO QUESTION ON UN VOTE TO EXCLUDE SOUTH AFRICA, SENGHOR EXPLAINED SENEGAL'S VOTE IN FAVOR BUT EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSALITY AND SAID THUS HE "ABSTAINS FROM JUDGING GREAT POWERS" AND THEIR OPPOSING VOTE.

4. ON MIDDLE EAST, PRESIDENT WAS REMINDED OF AN EARLIER SENEGALESE INITIATIVE TO BRING ARABS AND ISRAELIS TOGETHER. SENGHOR REPEATED HIS CONVICTION THAT THERE SHOULD BE HOMELANDS FOR BOTH ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS. HE PROPOSED THAT SUCH TWO STATES FORM FEDERATION. HE SAID HE STILL HOPED TO ORGANIZE A COLLOQUIUM "AT HIGH LEVEL" TO BRING TOGETHER INTELLECTUALS (NOT POLITICIANS) FROM CONTENDING ELEMENTS IN HOPE OF PROMOTING COEXISTENCE BETWEEN ARABS, JEWS, CHRISTIANS, AND MOSLEMS. THIS INITIATIVE WILL BE PUSHED WHEN GENEVA CONFERENCE IS FURTHER ADVANCED. IN ADDITION, SENGHOR REPEATED HIS CALL FOR ORGANIZATION OF AN ARABO-AFRICAN CONFERENCE TO TALK ABOUT PETROLEUM, RAW MATERIALS, MIDDLE EAST INTEGRATION AND EURO-AFRICAN ASSOCIATION.

5. ON DOMESTIC POLITICAL SCENE, SENGHOR MADE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO NEWLY CREATED PARTI DEMOCRATIQUE SENEGALAIS (PDS), LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND STATED THAT CERTAIN POLITICANS SEEKING SUPPORT FOR PDS HAD BEEN CLAIMING THEY AUTHORIZED DO SO BECAUSE OF "GREEN LIGHT" HE HAD GIVEN THEM. PRESIDENT REVIEWED PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION HE HELD WITH PDS SECRETARY GENERAL ABDOULAYE WADE IN MOGADISCIO (SIC). SAID WADE HAD SUGGESTED THAT SENEGALESE PEOPLE WANTED CREATE NEW PARTY. PRESIDENT SAID HE POINTED OUT THAT SENEGALESE CONSTITUTION ALLOWED FOR MULTIPARTY SOCIETY, PROVIDED STATUTES OF POLITICAL PARTIES CONFORMED TO CONSTITUTION. HE WARNED WADE

THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT TOLERATE ANY OPPOSITION WHICH ATTEMPTED DISRUPT SOCIETY. ALSO WARNED WADE BE ON GUARD AGAINST "NATURAL TEMPTATION OF ALL OPPOSITION IN AFRICA" TO BECOME DOCILE SERVANTS OF IDEOLOGIES AND FOREIGN INTERESTS. SENGHOR SAID HE WOULD BE "PITILESS" IF SUCH "TREASON" TOOK PLACE.

6. PRESIDENT ALSO ACCUSED PDS OF SPREADING FALSE INFORMATION WHICH SERVED NO USEFUL NATIONAL PURPOSE, EITHER AT HOME OR ABROAD. SAID QUESTION IS NOT WHETHER PDS HAS RIGHT TO EXIST BUT RATHER WHETHER EXISTING PARTIES ARE RESPONSIBLE ENOUGH TO CONDUCT ACTIVITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONSTITUTIONAL LIMITATIONS. ADDED THAT HIS OWN PARTY (UPS) IS OBLIGED TO OPERATE WITHIN CONFINES OF CONSTITUTION AND THAT OTHER PARTIES MUST DO LIKEWISE. IN QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD, PRESIDENT WAS ASKED HOW HE COULD RECONCILE HIS ROLE AS CHIEF OF STATE, WHO ABOVE POLITICAL PARTIES, WITH HIS ROLE AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF PARTY IN POWER. PRESIDENT DEFENDED THIS ARRANGEMENT ADDING THAT SENEGALESE LEGAL STRUCTURE SUFFICIENT TO BLOCK ANY ABUSE OF POWER.

7. COMMENTING ON WORLD ECONOMIC ISSUES, PRESIDENT SENGHOR ASCRIBED PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR WORLD INFLATION AND OTHER ECONOMIC PROBLEMS TO DEVELOPED WORLD. HE SAID INFLATION HAS BEEN EXPORTED FROM INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND IN ONLY MARGINALLY RESULT OF INCREASED PETROLEUM PRICES. HE STATED THAT OVER PAST 20 YEARS OIL PRICES HAVE INCREASED LESS THAN PRICES MANUFACTURED GOODS. OBSERVED THAT CURRENT PROBLEMS COULD BE RESOLVED ONLY THROUGH WORLD COOPERATION, NOT CONFRONTATION AND REITERATED HIS SALZBURG PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHING PARITIES BETWEEN PRICES OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS (INCLUDING PETROLEUM AND LEADING SENEGALESE EXPORTS OF PHOSPHATES AND PEANUTS) AND PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS.

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8. ON INTERNAL ECONOMIC QUESTIONS, PRESIDENT REFERRED TO RECENTLY ANNOUNCED POLICY OF DECREASED GOS SUBSIDY OF CONSUMER ITEMS (RICE, SUGAR, AND PEANUT OIL) AND INCREASED WAGES, AND PRICES PAID FARMERS FOR PEANUTS AND OTHER CROPS. HE DEFENDED THIS POLICY AND NOTED THAT SINCE AUGUST 1973, COST OF LIVING ROSE 40 PERCENT WHILE MINIMUM WAGE ROSE OVER 100 PER CENT. NOTED CURRENT MINIMUM WAGE (SMIG) WAS HIGHEST IN BLACK AFRICA. IN RESPONSE REPORTER'S QUESTION SENGHOR REITERATED ROLE FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS IN SENEGALESE ECONOMY. NOTING NEED FOR FOREIGN CAPITAL AND TECHNOLOGY, PRESIDENT SAID SENEGAL ACTIVELY SEEKS FOREIGN INVESTORS FOR JOINT VENTURES. NOTED SENEGAL WILL NATIONALIZE THAT WHICH IS "NATIONALIZABLE", BUT FOR NOW, NO FURTHER NATIONALIZATION IS NEEDED SINCE KEY SECTORS (TRANSPORT AND UTILITIES) HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN OVER.

9. SENGHOR EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM OVER NIGERIAN PROPOSAL FOR WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (WAEC) NOTING CEAO ALREADY EXISTS AND SHOULD BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE ALL WEST AFRICANS RATHER THAN CREATING ANOTHER DIVISION.

10. FULL TEXT OF PRESS CONFERENCE BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT. AGGREY

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